

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, JA
SUBJECT: MITI FOLLOW-UP ON ENERGY R&D INITIATIVE

OES, PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP

REF: (A) TOKYO 09320, (B) STATE 169374, (C) TOKYO 12395,
(D) STATE 176008, (E) STATE 176009

1. AT REQUEST OF MITI, DOE REP MET WITH SAWADA, DIRECTOR
OF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF AGENCY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENERGY (ANRE), MITI TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR
CARRYING OUT ENERGY R&D INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY PRIME
MINISTER FUKUDA.

2. SAWADA WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN FIELDS OF INTEREST TO US
AND REVIEWED FUSION, SOLAR, GEOTHERMAL, AND COAL LIQUE-
FACTION AS OF OVERALL INTEREST TO THE GOJ. IN THIS CON-
TEXT, SAWADA WAS INTERESTED IN LEARNING IF US WAS PLANNING
TO FIELD A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS TO DISCUSS JOINT ENERGY
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R&D ACTIVITIES AS SUGGESTED REF E.

3. WITH RESPECT TO INDIVIDUAL AREAS, SAWADA WAS MOST
INTERESTED IN COAL LIQUEFACTION COOPERATION AND MENTIONED
ANRE'S INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A SYNFUELS PROCESS
R&D PROGRAM (SEE REF C). TOWARD THIS END, SAWADA SOLICITED
DOE'S INTEREST IN HAVING THE JAPANESE PARTICIPATE (INCLUD-

ING FINANCIAL SUPPORT) IN THE SOLVENT REFINED COAL PROCESS (SRC). SAWADA MENTIONED JAPANESE PARTICIPATION BETWEEN EXXON AND THE JAPAN COAL LIQUEFACTION TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION STATING THAT A SIMILAR TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT COULD BE USED IN THE EVENT OF US INTEREST IN EXPANDING COAL R&D COOPERATION.

4. PROBLEM SAWADA IS FACING IS THAT HE MUST SUBMIT PROPOSED BUDGET (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FUNDING FOR JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT R&D) TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE BY AUGUST 31, 1978. EVEN THOUGH SPECIALISTS MEETING MAY TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, SAWADA IS APPREHENSIVE THAT HIS OFFICE WILL NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME TO SUBMIT JAPAN'S PROPOSED SHARE OF JOINT EFFORT R&D BUDGET. IF EXPERT'S MEETING DOES NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER AUGUST, IT WOULD MEAN THAT ANRE WOULD, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER YEAR BEFORE SUBMITTING A REQUEST FOR FUNDS.

5. IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO ANRE REQUEST, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A) DEGREE OF US INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH THE JAPANESE IN JOINT SYNFUELS R&D EFFORT.

B) IF INTEREST DOES EXIST, DEGREE OF JAPANESE FINANCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPATION CONSIDERED DESIRABLE;

C) PAYOFF THAT COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO ACCRUE TO JAPANESE IN NEAR TO MID-TERM. (THIS INFO WOULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY ANRE BUDGET REQUEST TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE); AND

D) OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST FOR JOINT R&D INCLUDING INFO REQUESTED IN A), B) AND C) ABOVE.

6. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, DR. JOHN M. DAWSON, DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR PLASMA PHYSICS, UCLA, VISITED THE DOE REPRESENTATIVE JULY 28 TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR US-JAPANESE COOPERATION IN FUSION. DAWSON IS VISITING JAPAN AT THE REQUEST AND EXPENSE OF THE JAPANESE TO GIVE HIS VIEWS REGARDING JAPANESE FUSION DEVELOPMENT.

7. DAWSON STATED THAT HE HAD A ONE-HOUR VISIT WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA WHO STRESSED DESIRE FOR EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH US IN FUSION R&D. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH JAERI OFFICIALS, JAPANESE PROPOSED FUSION R&D EXPANSION SIMILAR TO PARA 2A OF REF D. I.E.: DIAGNOSTICS, AUXILIARY HEATING, JOINT EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING JT 60 AND THE US TFTR,

NEXT GENERATION NON-CIRCULAR CONFINEMENT SYSTEMS INVOLVING JT4 AND DOUBLET III; AND TRITIUM HANDLING. IT WAS SUGGESTED BY THE JAPANESE THAT JAERI AND DOE SERVE AS FOCAL POINTS FOR THE ABOVE AREAS OF COOPERATION. JAPANESE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED INTEREST TO DAWSON IN ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS OF FUSION SUCH AS MIRRORS, INERTIAL CONFINEMENT THEORY AND PLASMA THEORY. MANSFIELD

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